

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

25X1

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT **Public Health in Bulgaria**

DATE DISTR. 5 May 1955

25X1

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED

This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. It is impossible to obtain exact data on the public health situation in Bulgaria because no statistics are compiled, except for 5-year diagrams which show the comparative increase or decrease of diseases since the last 5-year period.

25X1

Tuberculosis

2. Tuberculosis is officially decreasing because the prophylactic in this field has been successful since 1950. Control of the disease is very rigid for everyone from birth to old age. All new born infants have their blood tested to determine whether they are tubercular or not. If the test is negative, they are given an antigen orally. Those who are tubercular are not allowed contact with society until they are clinically healed. These persons with a history are then carefully watched and continuously given medical aid, linens, household utensils, etc. In no case is money given. At the beginning of every school year, relatives of a tubercular are especially X-rayed, along with all other students. The same procedure is followed for all persons hired for work and for all young men drafted.

Typhus

3. Wherever this disease is recurrent, preventive vaccination is administered by giving "Antityphus exantematicus" which is manufactured in Rumania by infecting the lungs of white rats.

Common Infectious Diseases

4. For common infectious diseases (typhoid, diphtheria, measles, etc.), common bacterial vaccines are administered. Vaccination against typhoid is given to all children upon completion of their twelfth year. Vaccinations for less common infectious diseases are administered whenever they are needed.

~~SECRET~~

25X1

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		ABC									
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMAL REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-2-

Cancer

5. For the past few years, cancer has been increasing. The Cancer Center in Sofia has been established in the Institute of Advanced and Specialized Medicine situated in the former Workers Hospital at Ulitza No 8 Byalo More for the continuous study of cancer. It is planned to install centers of this kind in regional city hospitals, that is, in each okrug. At the present time, Bulgarian medical circles suppose that the disease is caused by a virus.

Venereal Diseases

6. Venereal diseases are decreasing chiefly through the use of the latest antibiotics.

Epidemic of Hemorrhagic Fever

7. In April 1954 the areas of Ruse, Burgas, Svishtov, and Kolarovgrad experienced an epidemic of an unknown disease which fooled the doctors because of similarity of its early symptoms with those of dysentery. The resultant mortality was 50 to 60 per cent. Following the early symptoms, this disease degenerated to frequent and profuse nose bleeding which caused death through loss of blood. Quick transfusions stopped the heavy fatalities.
8. This disease reportedly starts with the parasite hylomomarginate, which is transmitted during the spring pasture migration, from rodents to the livestock, and from the livestock to man. All those who survived this disease have been registered for future control.

Gestation and Infant Mortality

9. Medical aid to gestating mothers and new born infants is very good, and infant mortality is appreciably decreasing. This is so because antibiotics are given free to children, naturally to the loss of the aged who are often denied modern medicine because it is too expensive.

Miscellaneous Health Information

10. There is only one blood bank in the entire country, in Sofia. Blood donors are available at the various sanatoria. They are paid .64 leva per cubic centimeter of blood.
11. The government, through its executive agency known as Profilaktsiya is sufficiently organized and attempts to improve the environmental and pre-disposing conditions, curing the disease and protecting the well.
12. An individual public health conscience is not present in the population. False modesty, ignorance, and other reasons induce many to avoid the clinics for their periodic medical checkup. The old are especially skeptic about the medicine of our times. As a result the government must resort to propaganda to persuade the people that disease can be prevented, or at least that an early diagnosis can be made.
13. Most of the propaganda is conducted by the Red Cross through handbills and motion picture short subjects shown after the usual entertainment films. This educational program is reportedly meeting with success, especially regarding infectious diseases and particularly tuberculosis.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-3-

14. The Public Welfare Division is charged especially with helping mothers of illegitimate children, and assigning the children to nurseries if necessary. The nurseries and youth organizations are very popular because women must work to provide for their family.
15. Only the old generation, which still feels the ties that bind them to their families, try to keep their children at home and to educate them on their own. The majority of young parents entrust their children to the following:
 - a. Nurseries (up to three years of age), Class I;
 - b. Nurseries and kindergartens (from 3-7 years of age), Class II; and
 - c. Pioneers (from seven to 13-14 years of age, the age of release from the third class of secondary school, which is compulsory for all), Class III.
16. The tasks of the nurseries, kindergartens, and youth organizations are as follows:
 - a. To remove children from the training of their parents;
 - b. To disaffect them from their parents, by giving them gifts, fun and good treatment in general, so as to make them grateful to the government which does more for them than their families can;
 - c. To make excellent Communists of the young people, convince them that the state is the motivating force behind all activity and is the altar of their dedication; and
 - d. To select the future personnel of the Communist Party.
17. Prostitution is officially inexistent, but it is rather widespread unofficially. It is not practiced for money but more as a pastime. The principal causes of this vice are reportedly as follows:
 - a. Favoritism; women are forced to work for their families; Government regulations forbid husbands and wives from working together, so that women are often in contact with other men who are often in charge; it frequently happens that these women, for the sake of an hour or two of leave or to obtain a better job, seek the favor of their bosses by surrendering; and
 - b. Recreation; the law does not forbid free sexual relations even if other husbands and wives are involved; a person may be married and still live with another so long as his or her intention to divorce is stated in writing; even if one of the marriage partners is opposed, there is nothing that can be done; there are no worries of illegitimate children, with the result that there is no brake on immorality and the people indulge in free love with complete nonchalance.
18. In case of divorce the state prefers to assign the children to the mother, giving her a sum of money equal to the pay of her husband. In case the mother refuses them, the father is asked. If he also refuses his children, the state takes them as its wards and assigns them through the Public Welfare Agency of the Ministry of Public Health to the youth organizations.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-4-

19. In case of divorce, illegitimate children are either given to the mother who receives a bonus, or to the state, as for legitimate children. One of the tasks of the Public Welfare Division is to help mothers who have illegitimate children.
20. The following punishments are provided for induced abortion:
 - a. Self induced; sentence up to six months;
 - b. Induced by non medical persons; sentence up to three years in jail for the inducer, and a reprimand to the gestating mother; and
 - c. Induced by a medical practitioner; sentence for the doctor up to three years imprisonment, and a reprimand to the gestating mother.

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1